

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NRC-07 SSO-00 ACDA-10
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07
FEAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /090 W
-----076917 241638Z /47

O 241615Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4715

ERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PARIS 18672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR, US

SUBJECT: ERDA/COGEMA CONTRACT FOR REPROCESSING OF MTR
FUEL ELEMENTS

REF: STATE 146402

1. EMBASSY AND CEA APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND ERDA
ASSISTANCE IN CABLING TEXT OF ERDA TO COGEMA LETTER
CONTAINED REFTEL. ORIGINAL OF LETTER RECEIVED BY
COGEMA JUNE 22, 1977.

2. CEA HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN
REACHING AN EARLY SOLUTION TO ITS PRESSING, IF NOT
EMERGENCY, SITUATION REGARDING SPENT FUEL FROM THE
HIGH FLUX TEST REACTOR AT GRENOBLE. CEA UNDERSTANDS
THAT NRC WILL NOT GRANT ITS PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SPENT
FUEL FROM FRANCE TO BE SHIPPED TO THE US BECAUSE THE
STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE
PERMIT. CEA UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HAS NOT GRANTED ITS APPROVAL BECAUSE THE ULTIMATE
DISPOSITION OF THE REPROCESSED URANIUM HAS NOT BEEN
AGREED. CEA WISHES TO RECEIVE SOONEST APPROVAL TO
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SHIP THE SPENT FUEL TO THE US ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE DISPOSITION OF THE REPROCESSED URANIUM WILL BE
DISCUSSED FURTHER AND DECIDED LATER.

3. CEA ADVISES THAT ITS CONTRACT WITH ERDA INCLUDES
THE PROVISION FOR ERDA TO UNILATERALLY CHOOSE AMONG
THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE

REPROCESSED URANIUM: TO BE ACCEPTED AT THE PLANT BY CEA AS UF₆; CEA TO ACCEPT MONEY; OR THE URANIUM TO BE FURTHER ENRICHED IN THE US TO 93 PERCENT U-235 AND RETURNED TO FRANCE FOR USE IN TEST REACTORS. IN THE PAST, THE URANIUM HAS BEEN FURTHER ENRICHED IN THE US AND RETURNED TO FRANCE AS FUEL FOR RESEARCH REACTORS. THE CONTRACT PROVIDES THAT THE DECISION AS TO WHICH OPTION IS TAKEN RESTS WITH ERDA AND IT IS CEA'S OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT THE ERDA DECISION.

4. CEA ADVISES THAT IT MUST CLOSE DOWN THE HIGH FLUX TEST REACTOR AT GRENoble IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SHIP SPENT FUEL WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. IT ALSO ADVISES THAT SACLAY WILL REACH A SIMILAR CRITICAL POINT IN A FEW WEEKS. CEA REQUESTS THAT THE NRC PERMIT ALLOWING THE SHIPMENT OF THE FUEL TO THE STATES BE GRANTED AND THAT THE DECISION ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE URANIUM PRODUCT OF THE REPROCESSING BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN CEA AND ERDA.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST BY CEA. PLEASE ADVISE BY CABLE IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS CONSIDERATION AND OF THE COURSE OF ACTION THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN THIS MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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